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Liu

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(54) **DRAINAGE CATHETER WITH DILATING MEMBER**

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(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A61M 29/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **604/106**

(58) **Field of Search** 604/509, 95.04, 604/104-109, 164.03, 164.04, 127, 540

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Primary Examiner—Larry I. Schwartz

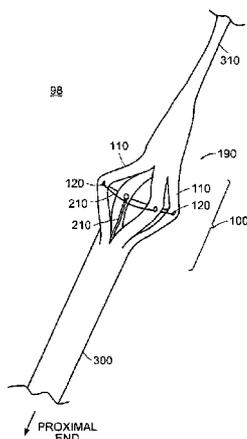
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A medical device for draining fluid from the body of a patient comprises an elongate member that defines a lumen and includes a proximal end and a distal portion. The device further comprises a dilating member disposed in the distal portion of the elongate member. The dilating member comprises a plurality of arms movable from a collapsed state to an expanded state in which the arms protrude radially to anchor the device within the body of the patient. The device includes a tension member that extends through the lumen to the dilating member and couples to the plurality of arms. Application of tension to the tension member causes the arms to move to the collapsed state thereby permitting insertion and removal of the device into and from the body of the patient. Some embodiments include a tension control member disposed at the proximal end of the elongate member and movable in at least a first direction and a second direction to increase and decrease tension to one or more tension members.

16 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets



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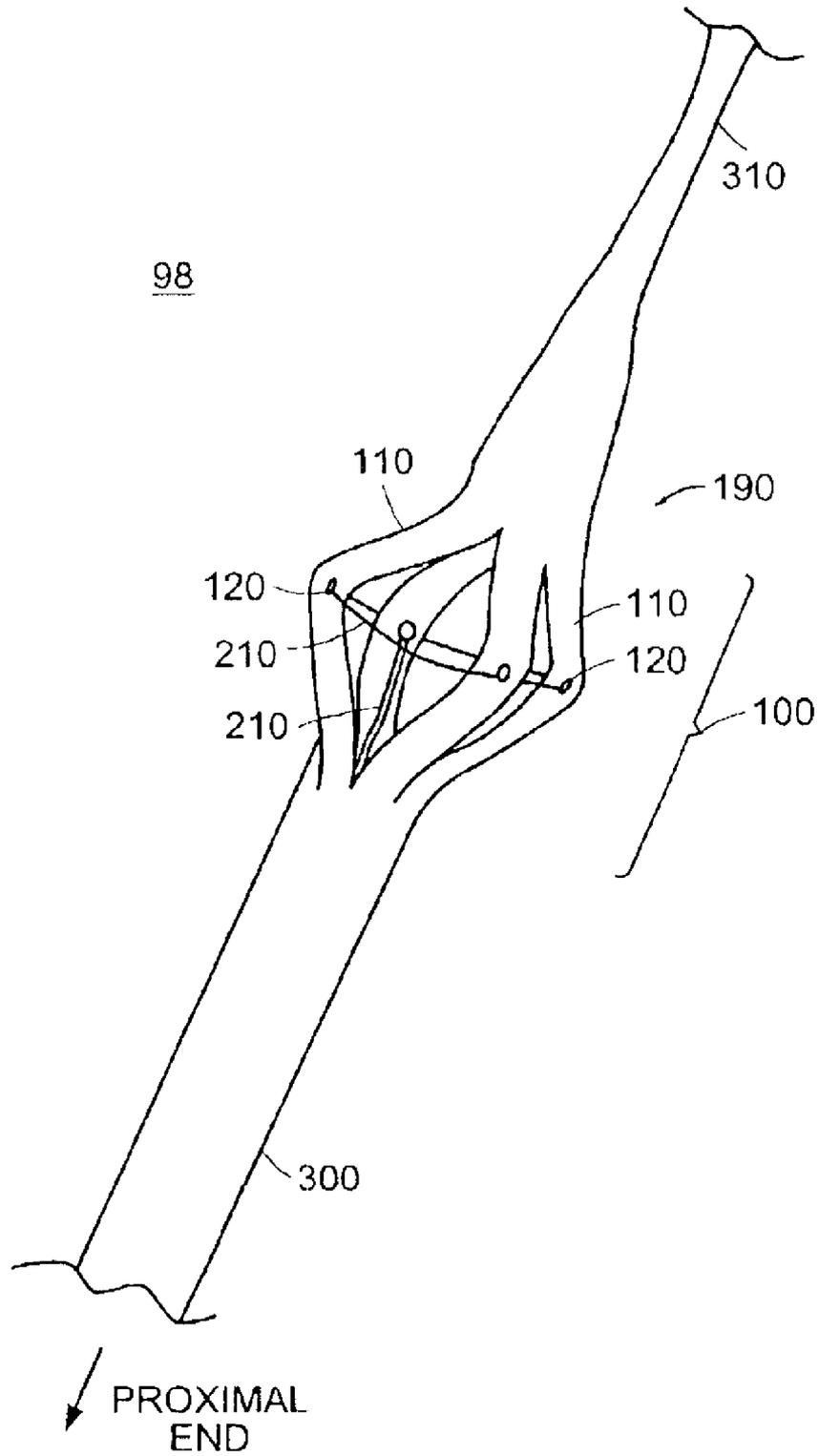


FIG. 1A

98

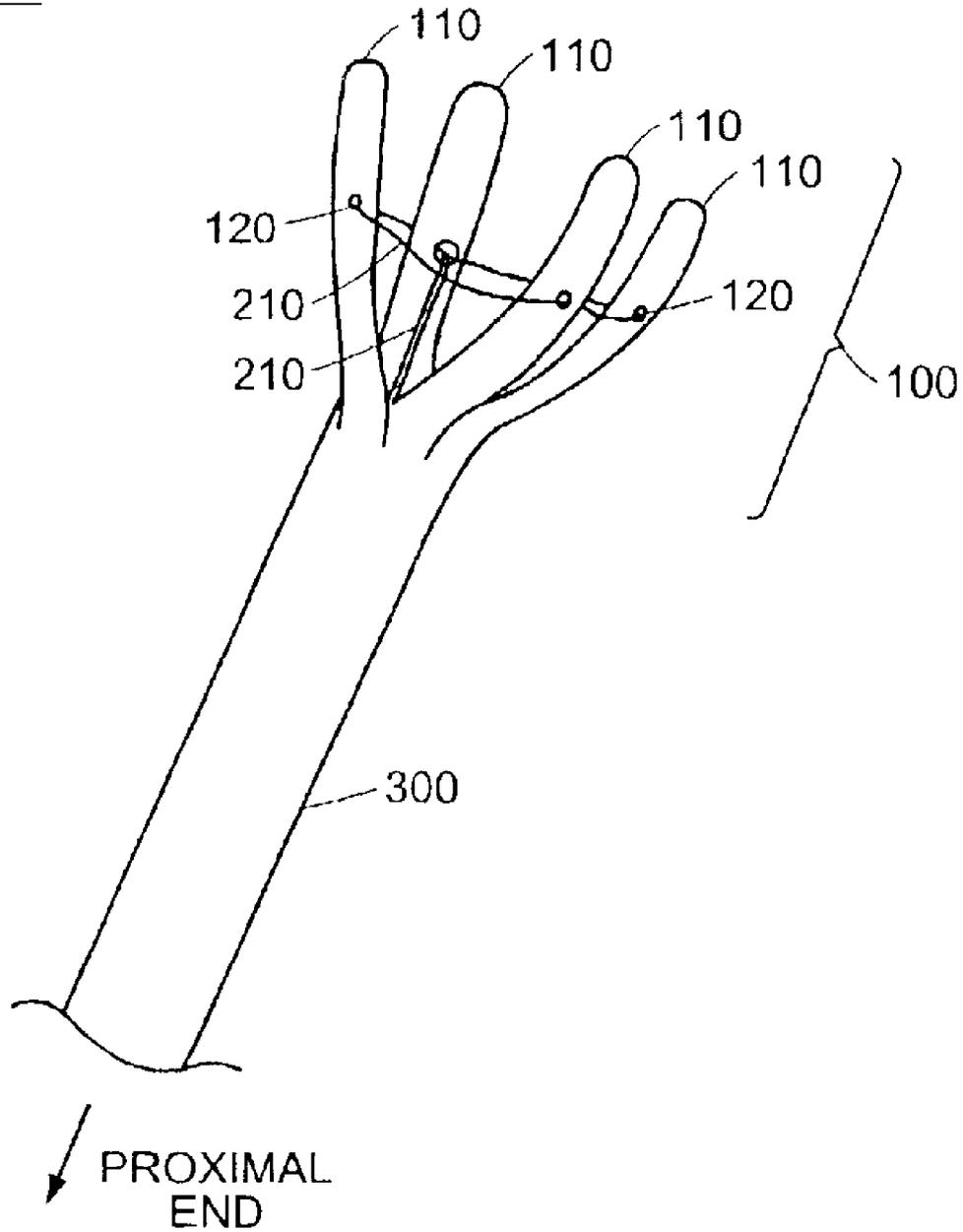


FIG. 1B

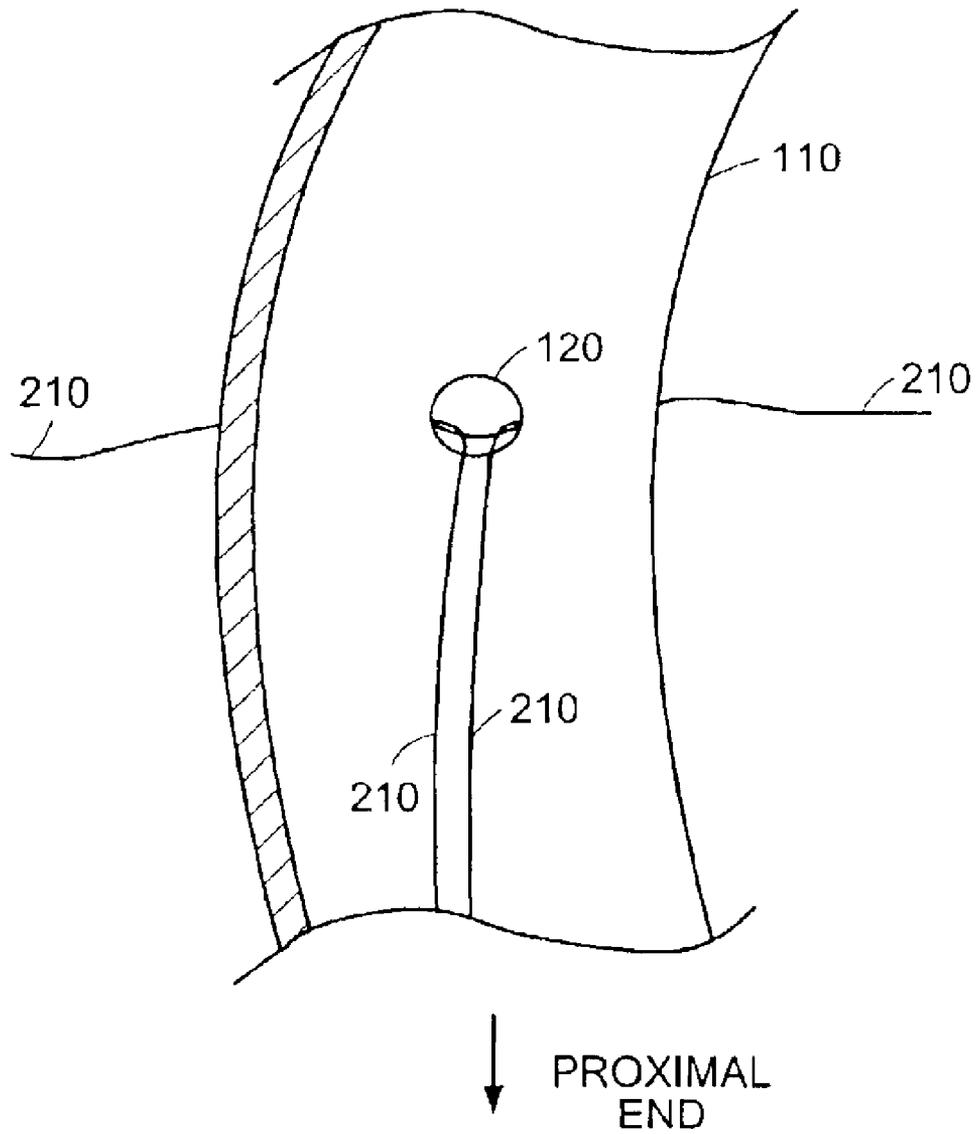


FIG. 2

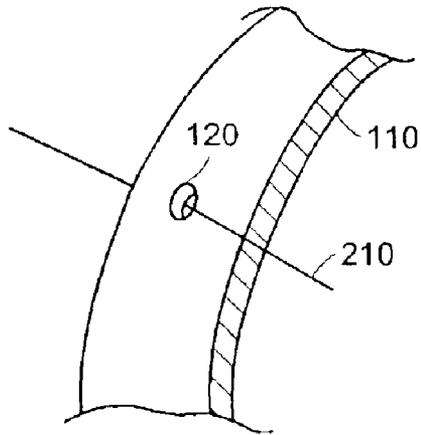


FIG. 3A

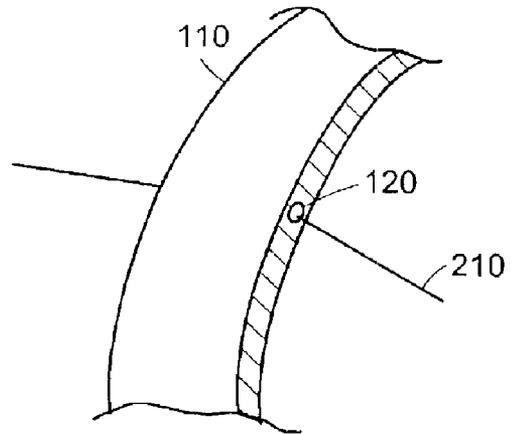


FIG. 3B

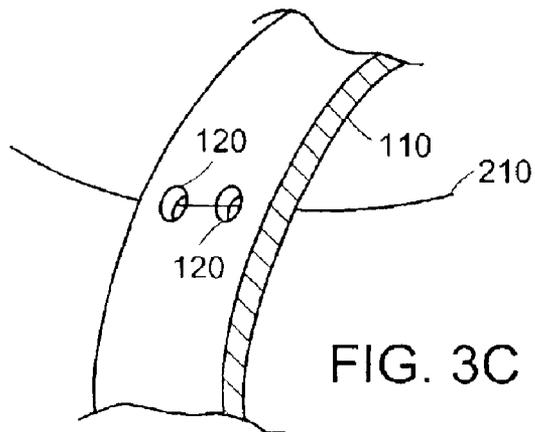


FIG. 3C

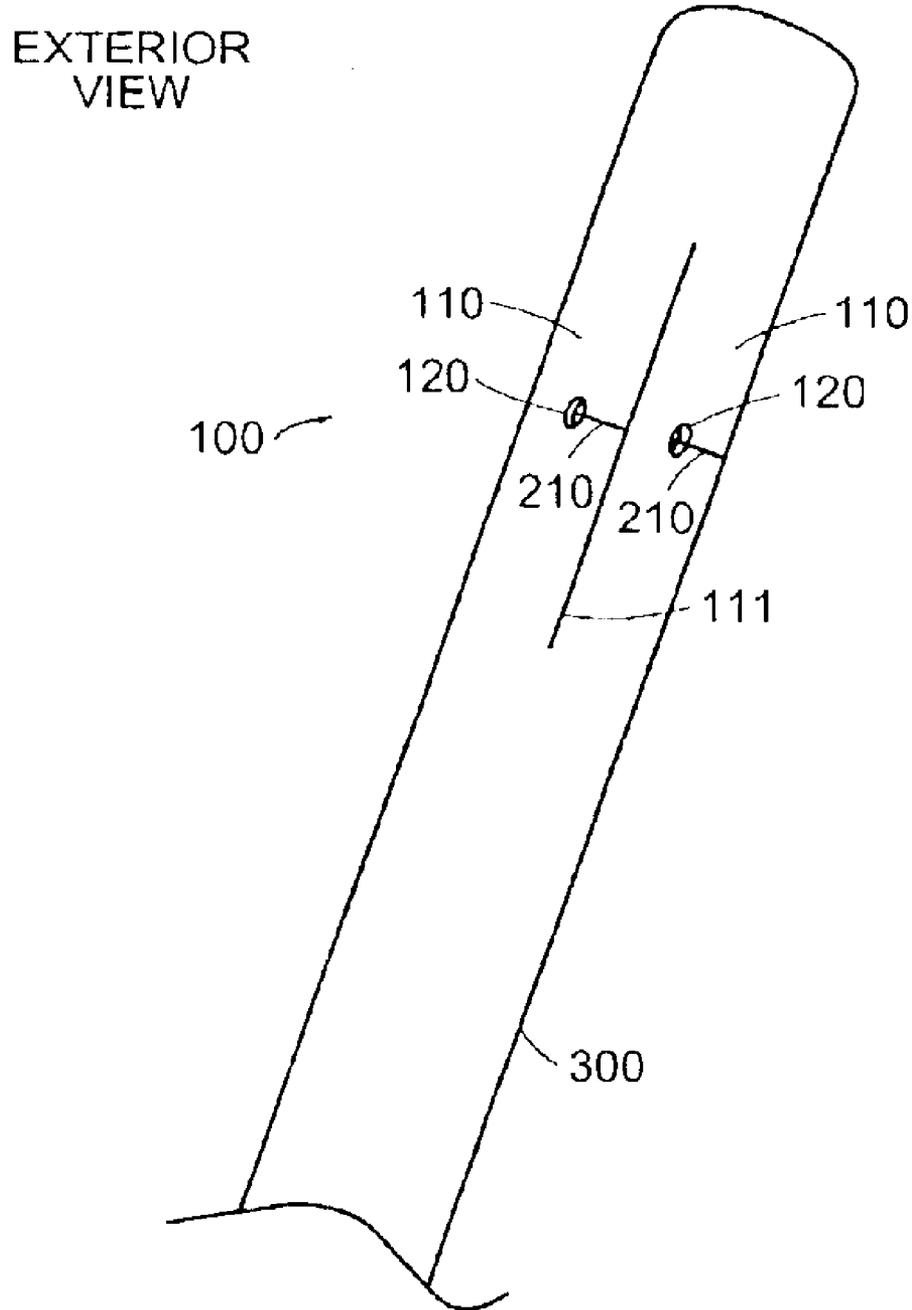


FIG. 4

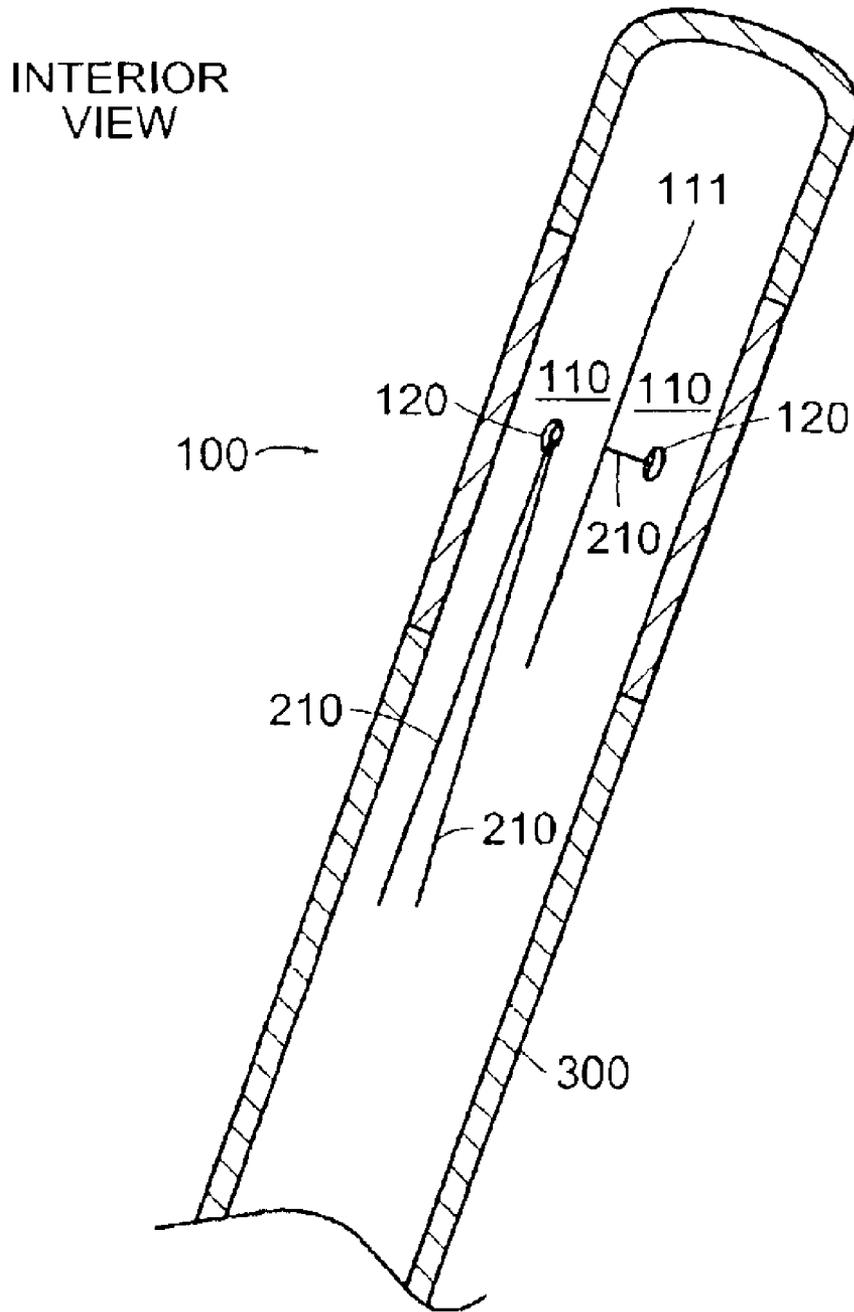


FIG. 5

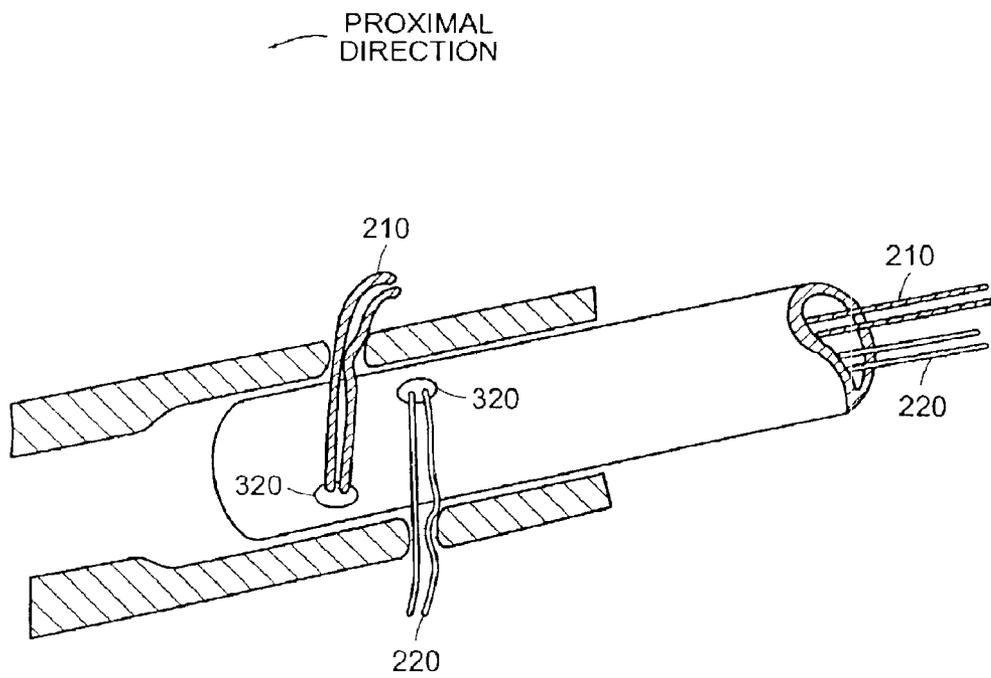


FIG. 6B

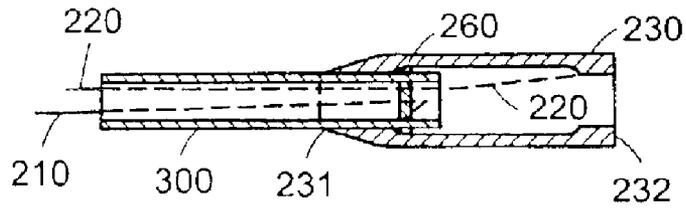


FIG. 7A

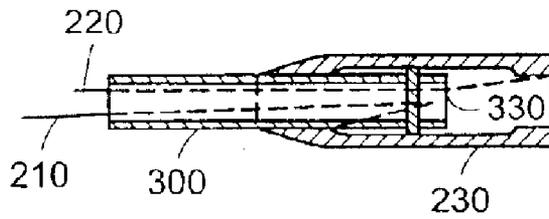


FIG. 7B

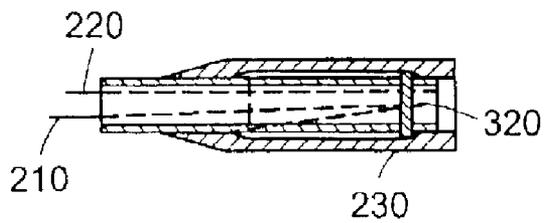
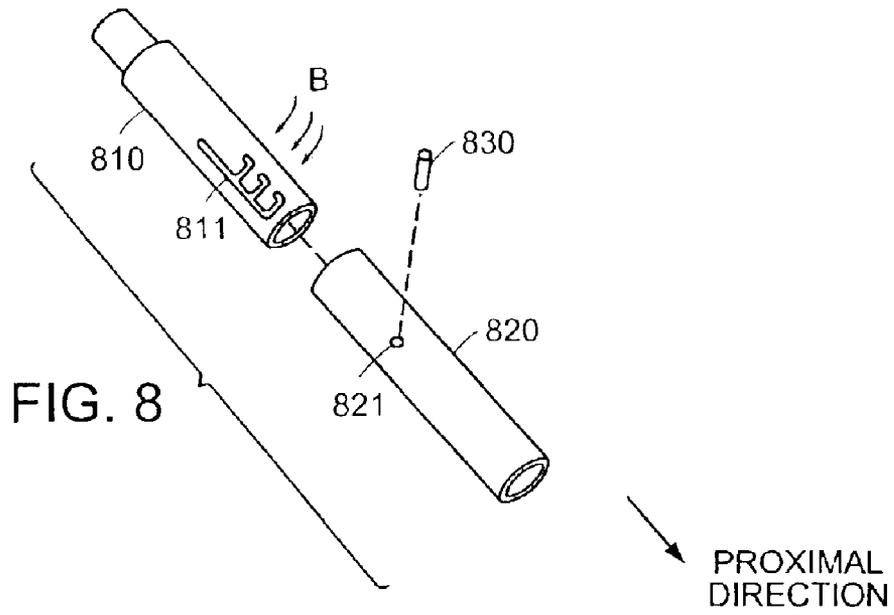


FIG. 7C

800



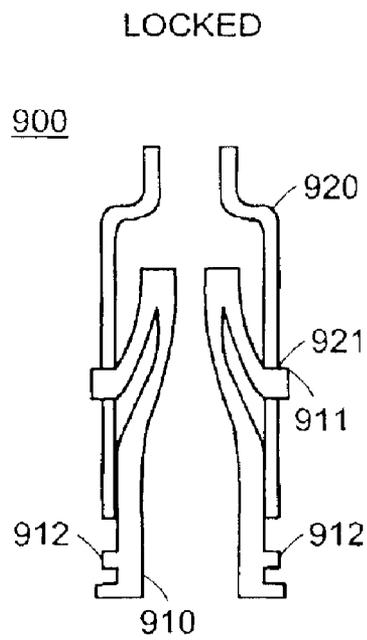
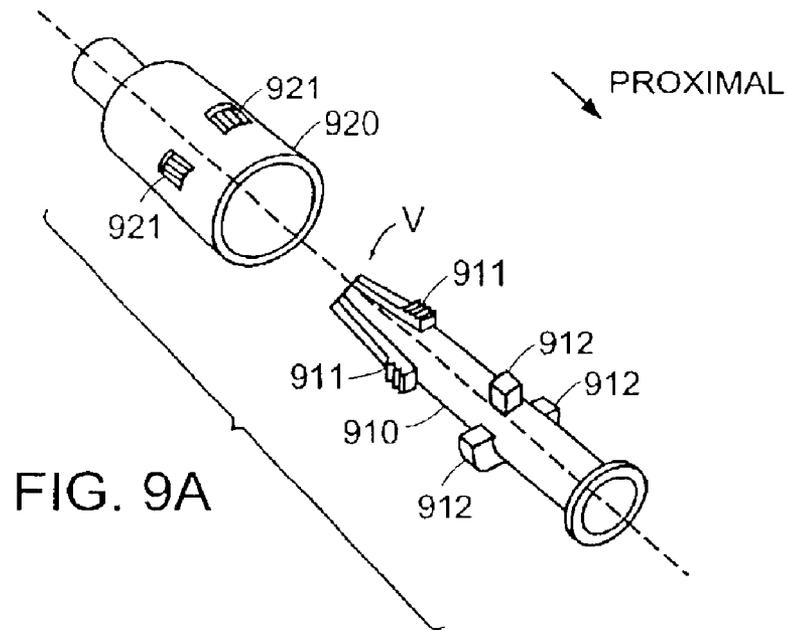


FIG. 9B

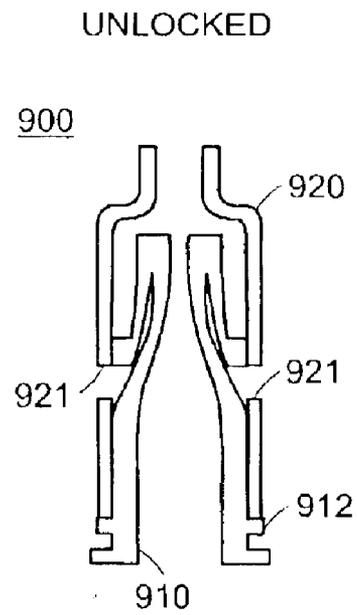


FIG. 9C

1000

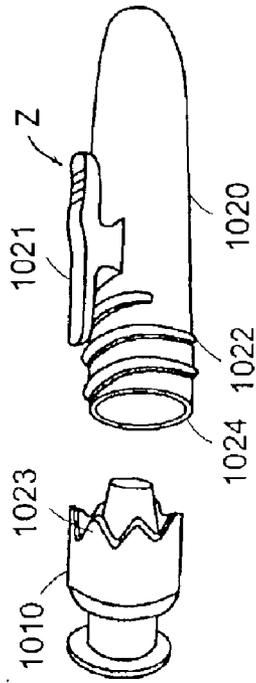


FIG. 10A

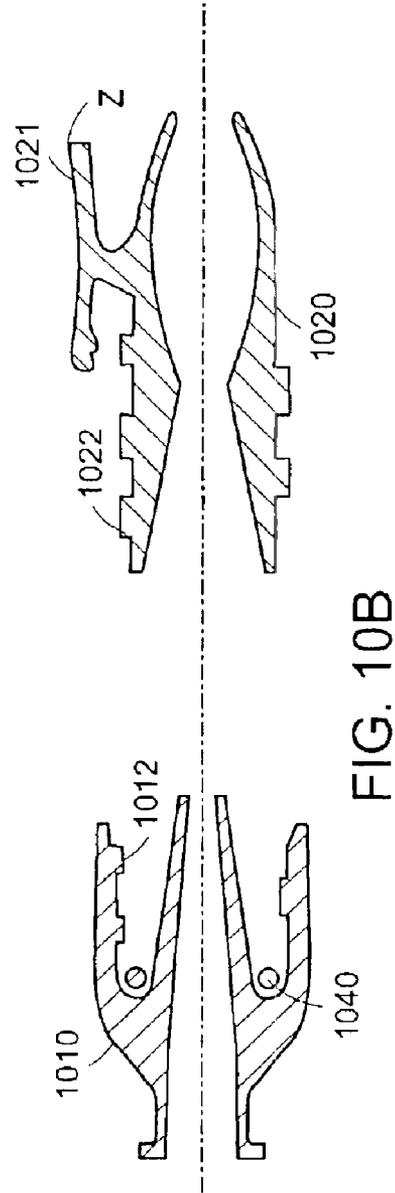


FIG. 10B

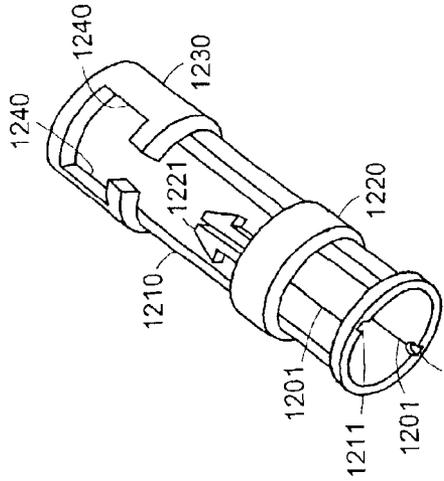


FIG. 12

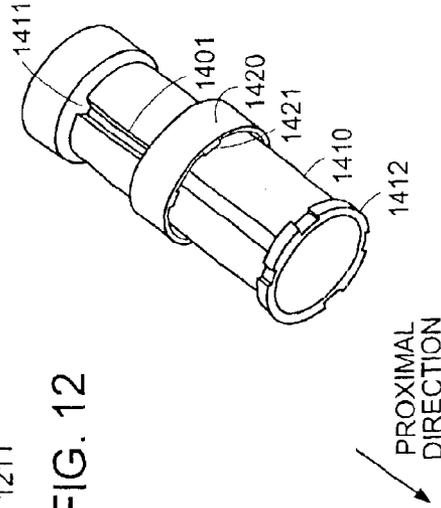


FIG. 14

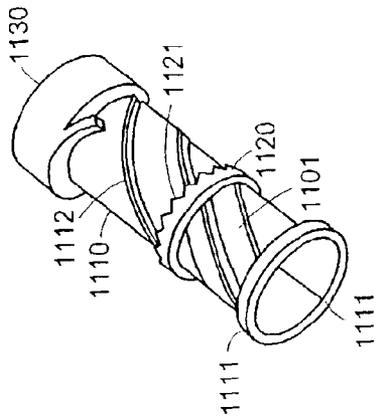


FIG. 11

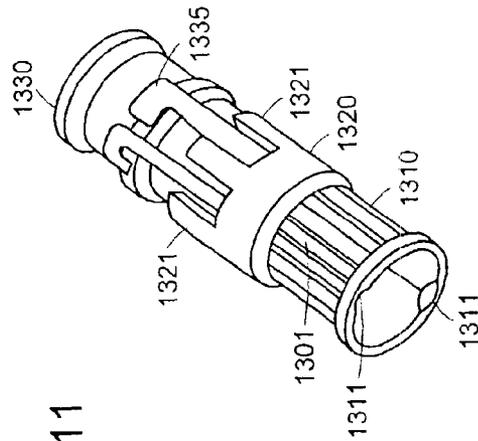


FIG. 13

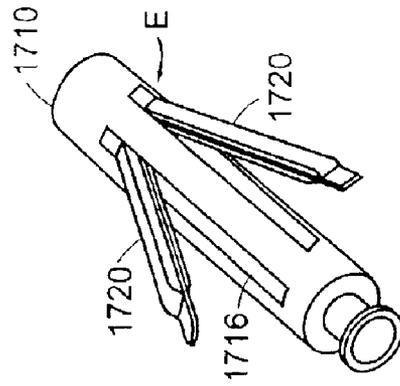


FIG. 17

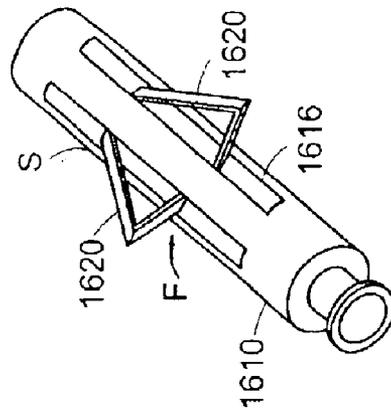


FIG. 16

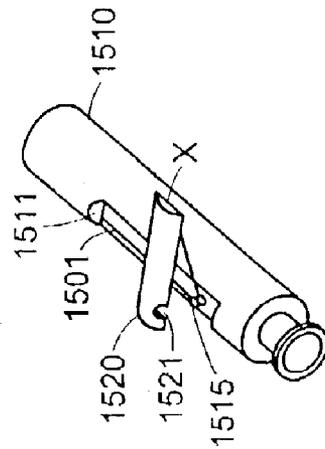


FIG. 15

DRAINAGE CATHETER WITH DILATING MEMBER**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED CASES**

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/755,588, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,547,761, filed Jan. 5, 2001, which claims the benefit of and priority to provisional U.S. patent application Ser. No. 60/174,885, filed Jan. 7, 2000, and provisional U.S. patent application Ser. No. 60/195,931, filed Apr. 10, 2000.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates to medical catheters, and, more particularly, to drainage catheters with distal anchoring mechanisms.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Some medical treatments involve the use of a medical catheter with a distal anchor that retains the catheter in position in the body of a patient. Some treatments use a drainage catheter. For example, procedures for the suprapubic catheterization of the bladder drain the bladder after surgery or when an obstruction plugs the genitourinary system. Percutaneously inserted catheters can also drain the kidneys, biliary system, abscesses, other sites of fluid collection and other viscera. As an alternative to providing drainage, percutaneously inserted catheters can introduce substances into the patient's body such as fluids introduced through gastrostomy feeding tubes.

Since body movements can inadvertently lead to catheter displacement, various anchoring mechanisms have been developed. For example, a Foley bladder catheter includes an inflatable balloon at the distal end, an inflation channel in the walls of the catheter, an external supply of inflation fluid connected to the channel and a valve to keep the fluid in place and the balloon inflated.

Alternatively, the distal end of the catheter can include a "pigtail loop" formed from a flexible tube. Typically, the pigtail loop is preformed from a shape-memory material. For introduction into a patient, a physician inserts a stiff cannula or stylet into the catheter lumen to straighten the pigtail loop. The distal end of the flexible tube returns to the pigtail configuration after the physician removes the cannula. In some cases, return to the pigtail configuration may be aided or secured by the use of a suture thread that extends through draw ports at two spaced positions on the flexible tube. These draw ports move toward each other when the physician removes the cannula. The physician can then take up slack and secure the pigtail by applying tension to the suture thread. To remove the catheter, the physician can reverse the above procedures.

Other anchor mechanisms include malecots with "wings" or "arms" in a distal portion of the catheter wall. The application of force to a distal tip of the catheter can expand the wings, and the wings extend outward protruding radially to create an anchor for the catheter. The force can be applied by pulling on a suture string or a rod extending through the lumen of the catheter. Alternatively, the wings of the malecot can be formed from a shape-memory material with a naturally protruding configuration, and a stylet is used to push the distal end of the catheter and collapse the malecot.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A catheter according to the invention does not require the use of a shape-memory material, a stylet, or dual tubes for

collapsing an anchor mechanism. Also, catheters according to the invention do not require a physician to manipulate separately two different tension members (e.g., two sutures) extending through the catheter lumen.

A catheter of the present invention includes one or more tension members to pull on one or more arms of a dilating member to collapse the dilating member. The tension members, in cooperation with a lock member, can secure the dilating member in a collapsed state. A single tension control member (located, for example, at the proximal end of the catheter), and operable with one hand, can simultaneously produce opposite changes in tension in two tension members attached to a dilating member.

Catheters according to the invention do not require stylets. A physician can collapse and secure the dilating member, for insertion or removal of the catheter, by applying tension (e.g., a pulling force) to a tension member. Further, catheters of the invention can include a tension control member that cooperatively controls the tension in two separate tension members to permit a physician securely and controllably to expand and collapse the dilating member with the use of just one hand.

In general, in one aspect, the invention features a medical device for draining fluid from the body of a patient. The device comprises an elongate member that defines a lumen and includes a proximal end and a distal portion. The device further comprises a dilating member disposed in the distal portion of the elongate member. The dilating member comprises a plurality of arms movable from a collapsed state to an expanded state in which the arms protrude radially to anchor the device within the body of the patient. The device further comprises a tension member extending through the lumen to the dilating member and coupled to the plurality of arms such that the application of tension to the tension member causes the arms to move to the collapsed state thereby permitting insertion and removal of the device into and from the body of the patient.

Embodiments of this aspect of the invention can include the following features. The device can include a second tension member extending through the lumen to the dilating member. The second tension member couples to a distal end of at least one of the arms such that application of tension to the second tension member causes the arms to move to the expanded state.

The device can further include a tension control member disposed at the proximal end of the elongate member, movable in at least a first direction and a second direction. The tension control member is coupled to the tension members such that movement of the tension control member in the first direction causes an increase in tension of the tension member and a decrease in tension of the second tension member that causes the arms to move to the collapsed state. Movement of the tension control member in the second direction causes an increase in tension of the second tension member and a decrease in tension of the tension member that causes the arms to move to the expanded state.

In some embodiments, the tension members comprise a flexible material. In some embodiments, the tension control member is slidably coupled to the elongate member to permit movement in proximal and distal directions. In other embodiments, the tension control member is rotatably coupled to the elongate member to permit clockwise and counterclockwise rotational movement around a longitudinal axis of the elongate member. In some embodiments, the tension control member is lockable to fix the tensions in the tension members to secure the arms when in the collapsed state, and when in the expanded state.

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In general, in another aspect, the invention features a device with a tension control member that cooperatively adjusts the tension in at least two tension members. The device comprises an elongate member that defines a lumen and includes a proximal end and a distal portion. A tension control member is disposed at the proximal end of the elongate member and movable in at least a first direction and a second direction. A first tension member couples to the tension control member at a first site and extends through the lumen to the distal portion. A second tension member couples to the tension control member at a second site and extends through the lumen to the distal portion.

Movement of the tension control member in the first direction causes an increase in tension of the first tension member and a decrease in tension of the second tension member. Conversely, movement of the tension control member in the second direction causes an increase in tension of the second tension member and a decrease in tension of the first tension member.

Embodiments of this aspect of the invention can include the following features. The first and second tension members can comprise a flexible material. The tension control member can be slidably coupled to the elongate member to permit movement in proximal and distal directions. In other embodiments, the tension control member is rotatably coupled to the elongate member to permit clockwise and counterclockwise rotational movement around a longitudinal axis of the elongate member.

The foregoing and other objects, aspects, features, and advantages of the invention will become more apparent from the following description and from the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings, like reference characters generally refer to the same parts throughout the different views. Also, the drawings are not necessarily to scale, emphasis instead generally being placed upon illustrating the principles of the invention.

FIG. 1a is a three-dimensional view of the distal portion of an embodiment of a drainage catheter according to the invention.

FIG. 1b is a three-dimensional view of the distal portion of an embodiment of a drainage catheter according to the invention.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged view of the arm "A" of FIG. 1a.

FIG. 3a-c are three-dimensional views of three embodiments of a dilating member arm.

FIG. 4 is a side view of the exterior of an embodiment of a dilating member in a collapsed state.

FIG. 5 is a cutaway interior view that corresponds to FIG. 4.

FIG. 6a is a cutaway view of an embodiment of a drainage catheter according to the invention that includes two tension members a slidable tension control member.

FIG. 6b is a cutaway view of an embodiment of a rotatable tension control member.

FIG. 7a-c are cutaway views that illustrate use of an embodiment of a tension control member.

FIG. 8 is a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of a lock member that includes a slotted portion.

FIG. 9a is a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of a lock member that includes a sliding portion.

FIG. 9b is a cross-sectional view of the embodiment of FIG. 9a in a locked state.

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FIG. 9c is a cross-sectional view of the embodiment of FIG. 9a in an unlocked state.

FIG. 10a is a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of a lock member.

FIG. 10b is a cross-sectional view that corresponds to FIG. 10a.

FIG. 11 is a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of a lock member that includes a ring portion.

FIG. 12 is a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of a lock member that includes a sliding portion.

FIG. 13 is a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of a lock member that includes a sliding portion.

FIG. 14 is a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of a lock member that includes a sliding portion.

FIG. 15 is a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of a lock member that includes a pivoting member.

FIG. 16 is a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of a lock member that includes a folding member.

FIG. 17 is a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of a lock member that includes a flipping member.

DESCRIPTION

Referring to FIG. 1a, a physician can use a medical device 98 according to the invention for draining fluid or removing other materials from the body of a patient (the term "physician" is here understood to refer generally to any medical worker). For example, the device 98 can be employed as a catheter for multi-stage percutaneous stone removal or nephrostomy drainage. Other uses include, for example, insertion of the device into a patient for drainage of the bladder, the kidneys, the biliary system, abscesses, other sites of fluid collection and other viscera. As an alternative to providing drainage, percutaneously inserted catheters can introduce substances into the patient's body, such as fluids introduced through gastrostomy feeding tubes.

The device 98 comprises a dilating member 100 disposed in a distal portion 350 of an elongate member 300 (see also FIG. 6a). The elongate member 300 (partially shown) defines at least one internal lumen 390 (see FIG. 6a) for transporting bodily fluid, and the elongate member 300 includes a proximal end 330 (see FIG. 6a) and the distal portion 350.

Optionally, the elongate member 300 further comprises a distal extension 310 adjacent to a distal end 190 of the dilating member 100. Other embodiments include no extension (see FIG. 4). Use of a distal extension 310 varies with the medical application. For example, the distal extension 310 can be inserted in the ureter to capture urine flow. Alternatively, the dilating portion of a catheter without an extension can reside inside a kidney to directly drain the kidney.

The dilating member 100 comprises one or more arms 110. In the embodiment depicted in FIG. 1a, the dilating member has four arms 110. Flexing or extending the arms 110 respectively serves to configure the dilating member 100 in an expanded state, i.e. bent arms, or a contracted state, i.e. straight arms 110. When in the collapsed state, a physician can insert the distal portion 350 of the elongate member 300 and the dilating member 100 into an orifice or incision in a patient. When in the expanded state, the dilating member 100 anchors the medical device 98 in the body of the patient. Referring to FIG. 1b, another embodiment of the dilating member 100 comprises one or more curving arms 110 that each are free at one end.

As shown in the embodiment depicted in FIG. 1a, arms 110 can be fabricated by making slits in an elongate member

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300 formed from a tube. In general, any suitable flexible, bio-compatible material can serve for tubing. For example, the tubing can comprise a polymer, such as silicone, rubber, polyurethane, Pebax or other thermoplastic material. Alternatively, one can bendably attach arms **110** to the elongate member **300**, for example via hinges.

In the embodiment depicted in FIG. 1a, the dilating member **100** is formed in a naturally open state, for example using a thermoplastic material. A physician can collapse the dilating member **100** by application of tension to a tension member **210**. Application of tension to the tension member **210** causes the arms **110** to extend, i.e. straighten, and move towards each other.

The tension member **210** can comprise a flexible material. Some embodiments use suture thread or other bio-compatible threads. In the embodiment of FIG. 1a, a single thread extends through eyelets **120** in the apex of the curve of the arms **110**, while the two ends of the thread extend from one of the eyelets **120** along the lumen **390** to the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**. Application of tension to the two ends of the thread at the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300** causes the thread to tighten where it loops through the arms **110**, and draws the arms **110** together.

Referring to FIG. 2, the arm **110**, labeled A in FIG. 1a, is shown in more detail. The two ends of the thread pass from the outer surface of the arm **210** through the eyelet **120**, and extend along the lumen **390** to the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**. Hence, in the embodiment depicted in FIG. 1, this arm is threaded differently from the remaining arms **210**.

In other embodiments, only one end of the thread extends through the lumen **390** to the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**. The other end of the thread can terminate at various alternative locations. For example, the latter end can couple to the remainder of the thread or to one of the arms **110**.

In other embodiments, alternative thread configurations serve as the tension member **210**. For example, separate threads can extend to each arm **110** or a single thread can branch to each arm **110** after extending distally through the lumen **390**. Another embodiment employs more rigid, linked materials to form the tension member. For example, the tension member **210** can comprise a chain or bendably linked rods.

In another embodiment, all arms **110** are threaded by a common closed loop of thread through each eyelet **120** in each arm **110**, and an additional section of thread attaches to the loop and extends along the lumen **390** to the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**. Alternative embodiments utilize other threading configurations that still serve to pull the arms **110** towards each other when a physician applies tension to one or more thread ends at the proximal end of the catheter.

Referring to FIG. 3a, the threading of the three other arms **110** corresponding to the embodiment of FIG. 1a is illustrated. Each arm **110** possesses a centrally located eyelet **120**. The tension member **210** passes through the eyelet **120** and continues in either direction to neighboring arms **110**. One can vary the direction of threading of the tension member **210** through the eyelets **120** in the arms **110**. For example, the tension member **210** can pass from neighbor to neighbor, or can pass directly between non-neighbor arms **110**. Further, as the tension member **210** passes through the eyelet **120** on a particular arm **110**, the tension member can pass from the inner or outer surface of the arm **110**.

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Referring to FIG. 3b and FIG. 3c, other embodiments have different numbers or different locations of eyelets **120** in the arms **110**. As illustrated by FIG. 3b, the eyelet **120** can extend laterally through the arm **110**. As illustrated by FIG. 3c, the arm **110** can have two or more eyelets. One can satisfactorily employ other eyelet positions and threading configurations for collapsing of the dilating member **100**.

Referring to FIG. 4, an embodiment of a distal portion **350** of an elongate member **300** with a dilating member **100** in the collapsed state is illustrated. This embodiment corresponds to the embodiment depicted in FIG. 1a. In this collapsed configuration, a physician can readily insert the catheter in, or remove it from, a body cavity. Two arms **110** are visible in this view. These arms **110** touch along slit **111** while in the collapsed state. A tension member **210** made from suture thread (partially visible) passes along the outer surfaces of the arms **110**.

Referring to FIG. 5, a cut-away interior view corresponding to the embodiment of FIG. 4 is shown. Portions of the thread tension member **210** can be seen passing laterally along a portion of the inner surface of one arm **110**, and extending towards the proximal end along the inner surface of another arm **110**. As described above, pulling on the proximal ends of the thread collapses the arms **110**, and holds the arms **110** in the collapsed configuration for insertion or removal of the catheter.

Referring to FIG. 6a, another embodiment of a catheter is illustrated. The catheter includes a second tension member **220**. Application of tension to the second tension member **220** causes the dilating member **100** to move to the expanded state. The second tension member **220** can comprise a flexible material. In some embodiments, the second tension member **220** comprises the same material as the tension member **210**. The second tension member **220** couples to one of the arms **110**. The coupling can be direct, at the distal end **130** of the arms **110** as shown in FIG. 6a, or indirect, for example by attachment to the extension **310** of the distal end of the elongate member **300**.

Cooperative releasing and applying of tension to the tension members **210**, **220** causes the dilating member **100** to either expand or collapse. To better control such tension, the embodiment depicted in FIG. 6a includes a tension control member **230**. The tension control member **230** is disposed at the proximal end of the elongate member **300**. In this embodiment, the tension control member **230** comprises a tubular section of material, for example, made from a polymer or a metal. In this embodiment, the tension control member **230** is slidably coupled to the elongate member **300**. A physician can slide the tension control member **230** in either direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the elongate member **300**.

The tension members **210**, **220** couple to the tension control member **230**. The couplings are configured so that the tension in one of the tension members **210**, **220** increases while tension in the other tension member **210**, **220** decreases upon motion of the tension control member **230** in one of two directions. In the embodiment depicted in FIG. 6a, the tension member **210** extends in a distal direction exterior to the elongate member **300** after exiting the lumen **390** and before attaching to the tension control member **230** (indicated at site "W1"); conversely, the second tension member **220** extends in a proximal direction after exiting the lumen **390** and before attaching to the tension control member **230** (indicated at site "W2"). Attachment can be achieved, for example, by friction or an adhesive.

Sliding the tension control member **230** in a proximal direction causes a pull on the second tension member **220**

and a relaxation of the pull on the tension member **210**, thus expanding the dilating member **100**. Conversely, sliding the tension control member **230** in a distal direction causes a pull on the tension member **210** and a relaxation of the pull on the second tension member **220**, thus collapsing the dilating member **100**.

Referring to FIG. **6b**, another embodiment of a tension control member **210** permits adjustment of tension in one or more threads by rotational movements. In the embodiment depicted in FIG. **6b**, the tension member **210** extends in a counterclockwise (when looking towards the distal end of the catheter) direction exterior to the elongate member **300** after exiting the lumen **390** and before attaching to the tension control member **230** (indicated at site “W1”). Conversely, the second tension member **220** extends in a clockwise direction after exiting the lumen **390** and before attaching to the tension control member **230** (indicated at site “W2”).

Rotating the tension control member **230** in a clockwise direction causes a pull on the second tension member **220** and a relaxation of the pull on the tension member **210**, thus expanding the dilating member **100**. Conversely, rotating the tension control member **230** in a counterclockwise direction causes a pull on the tension member **210** and a relaxation of the pull on the second tension member **220**, thus collapsing the dilating member **100**.

As depicted in FIG. **6a**, the tension member **210** exits the lumen **390** via an aperture **320** in a wall of the elongate member **300** while the second tension member **220** exits the lumen **390** at the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**. In other embodiments, the tension members **210**, **220** both exit the lumen **390** at the proximal end **330**, through an aperture **320** or exit through more than one aperture **320** disposed near the proximal end **330**.

Referring to FIG. **7**, a tension control member **230** corresponding to FIG. **6a** is shown in more detail. FIG. **7a** shows the tension control member **230** positioned to hold the dilating member **100** in a collapsed state. The physician has extended the tension control member **230** fully in the distal direction. In the embodiment of FIG. **7**, the tension control member **230** has a smaller internal radius near its proximal end **232** and distal end **231** than near its central portion. This permits a frictional fit when positioned fully in a proximal or distal direction. The frictional fit can be assisted, for example, by an elongate member **300** that has a wider portion near or adjacent to its distal end **330**. Hence, the tension control member **230** further acts as a locking member to lock the position of the tension members **210**, **220** and thus lock the state of the dilating member **100**. An o-ring **260** can assist frictional locking, and help to prevent leakage of fluids from the catheter.

Referring to FIG. **7b**, the tension control member **230** is shown in an intermediate position. FIG. **7c** is a schematic diagram of the tension control member **230** positioned to hold the dilating member **100** in an expanded state. The physician has moved the tension control member **230** fully in the proximal direction.

Other embodiments include one or more differently configured tension control members **230**. For example, the tension control member **230** can be rotatably coupled to the elongate member **300**. Movement in clockwise and counterclockwise directions serves to alternately expand and collapse the dilating member **100**. In one alternative embodiment, rotation of the tension control member **230** causes one tension member **210**, **220** to wind around one spool while the other tension member **210**, **220** unwinds

around another spool. In another embodiment, rotation of the tension control member **230** causes one tension member **210**, **220** to slide against and wrap around the elongate member **300** while the other tension member **210**, **220** slides against and unwraps around the elongate member **300**.

Referring to FIGS. **8–16**, various locking mechanisms can be used to adjust the tension in and lock the positions of one or more threads in a drainage catheter. The locking mechanisms can include a member or portion that is attached to one or more threads that exit the lumen **390** at the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**, or exit the lumen **390** via one or more an aperture **320** in the wall of the elongate member **300**. Movement of the member or portion permits an increase or a decrease in the tension of a thread.

FIG. **8** illustrates an embodiment of a lock member **800**. The lock member **800** comprises a slotted portion **810** that attaches to the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**. The slotted portion **810** defines slots **811** that extends through a wall of the slotted portion **810**. A housing **820** is disposed around the slotted portion **810**. A pin **830** extends inwardly through an aperture **821** in the housing **820** and into the slots **811** to secure the position of the housing **820** relative to the position of the slotted portion **810**. One or more tension members **210**, **220** are attached to the housing **820**. Hence, moving the housing **820** along the longitudinal axis of the elongate member **300** (not shown) can be used to increase or decrease the tension of a tension member **210** or **220**.

After positioning the housing **820** for a desired level of tension, the physician inserts the pin **830** through the aperture **821** into one of a set of predefined locations (indicated by “B”) in the slots **811**. The embodiment depicted in FIG. **8** has pin **830** locations for three different levels of tension. Other embodiments include slots **811** with fewer or more tensioning levels.

Referring to FIGS. **9a–c**, an embodiment of a lock member **900** is shown. FIG. **9a** shows a three-dimensional view of the lock member **900**, while FIGS. **9b–c** are cross-sectional views of the lock member **900** in locked and unlocked states. A housing **920** couples to the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**. The housing has one or more cutouts **921**. A sliding portion **910** fits within the housing **920** and couples to one or more threads. A thread can attach to the sliding portion **910** at various locations (for example, indicated by “V”). The sliding portion has one or more spring portions **911** that can engage with the cutouts **921**. By pressing on the spring portions **911** through the cutouts **921**, a physician can disengage the spring portions **911** from the cutouts **921**, to permit sliding of the sliding portion **910** in a distal direction. In this embodiment, the sliding portion includes stops **912** that limit the travel of the sliding portion **910** in the distal direction.

Referring to FIGS. **10a–b**, an embodiment of a Luer lock-based lock member **1000** is shown. FIG. **10a** shows a three-dimensional view of the lock member **1000**, while FIG. **10b** is a corresponding cross-sectional view of the lock member **1000**. A female fitting **1020** couples to the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**. A male fitting **1010** has threads **1012** that engage corresponding threads **1022** included in the female fitting **1020**. The female fitting **1020** includes a spring ratchet **1021** that engages teeth **1023** included in the male fitting **1010** to lock the rotational position of the male fitting **1010** relative to the female fitting **1020**. Pressing on an end (site indicated by “Z”) of the ratchet **1021** disengages the ratchet from the teeth **1023** to permit removal of the male fitting **1010** from the female fitting **1020**.

The lock member **1000** further includes an o-ring **1040** seated within the male fitting **1010**. A proximal end **1024** of the female fitting **1020** presses against the o-ring **1040** when a physician attaches the fittings **1010**, **1020**. The o-ring **1040** helps to prevent leakage from the catheter and can further help to secure the position of one or more suture threads **210**, **220**. Other embodiments use other sealing members in place of an o-ring **1040**, for example a washer or a grommet.

One can use the lock member **1000** in combination with one or more tension member threads. In one embodiment, the physician simply screws the male fitting **1010** onto the female fitting **1020** after positioning one or more threads with the desired level of tension. In another embodiment, a thread may pass along one side of or through the o-ring **1040** and then exits the male fitting **1010** through an eyelet on the proximal side of the o-ring **1040**. In another embodiment, the male fitting **1010** may include an eyelet through which a thread passes into a lumen of the male fitting **1010**. In other embodiments, one or more eyelets may be variously positioned in the male fitting **1010** or the female fitting **1020**.

Referring to FIG. **11**, another embodiment of a lock member **1100** is shown. The lock member **1100** includes a grooved portion **1110** fixedly attached to the elongate member **300**. The outer surface of the grooved portion **1110** includes a spiral groove **1112**. A ring portion **1120** is disposed around the grooved portion **1110** and attached to a tension member comprising a thread **1101**. The ring portion **1120** engages a groove **1112** in the grooved portion **1110** that guides the ring portion **1120** in a distal direction as a physician rotates the ring portion **1120** around the grooved portion **1110**. As the ring portion **1120** moves in the distal direction, it pulls the thread **1101** through eyelets **1111** in the grooved portion **1110**, causing an increase in tension in the thread **1101**.

As the ring portion **1120** moves in the distal direction, it eventually contacts a ratchet portion **1130** disposed adjacent to the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**. The ratchet portion **1130** engages teeth **1121** in the ring portion **1120** to secure the position of the thread **1101**. The ratchet portion **1130** also permits variably securing the position of the thread **1101**.

Referring to FIG. **12**, another embodiment of a lock member **1200** is shown. The lock member **1200** includes a tube portion **1210** fixedly attached to the elongate member **300**. A sliding portion **1220** is disposed around the tube portion **1210** and attached to a thread **1201**. A physician slides the sliding portion **1220** along the tube portion **1210** to increase the tension in the thread **1201**. As the sliding portion **1220** moves in the distal direction, it pulls the thread **1201** through eyelets **1211** in the tube portion **1210**, causing an increase in tension in the thread **1201**.

As the sliding portion **1220** moves in the distal direction, it eventually contacts a notched portion **1230** disposed adjacent to the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**. The notched portion **1230** has two opposing notches **1240** engaging flexible teeth **1221** that extend in a distal direction from the sliding portion **1220** to secure the position of the thread **1201** in a tensed position.

Referring to FIG. **13**, another embodiment of a lock member **1300** is shown. The lock member **1300** includes a tube portion **1310** attached to the elongate member **300**. A sliding portion **1320** is disposed around the tube portion **1310** and attached to a thread **1301**. A physician slides the sliding portion **1320** along the tube portion **1310** to increase the tension in the thread **1301**. As the sliding portion **1320** moves in the distal direction, it pulls the thread **1301** through

eyelets **1311** in the tube portion **1310**, causing an increase in tension in the thread **1301**.

As the sliding portion **1320** moves in the distal direction, it eventually contacts a notched portion **1330** disposed adjacent to the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**. The notched portion **1330** has a plurality of notches **1335** that engage a plurality of extensions **1321** that extend in a distal direction from the sliding portion **1320** to secure the position of the thread **1301**. The physician slightly rotates the sliding portion **1320** so that the extensions **1321** can engage recesses (indicated by "R") in the notches **1335** by permitting the sliding portion **1320** to return slightly in the proximal direction.

Referring to FIG. **14**, another embodiment of a lock member **1400** is shown. The embodiment of FIG. **14** is similar in configuration to the embodiment of FIG. **13**. Here, however, a physician moves a sliding portion **1420** in a proximal direction along a tube portion **1410** to increase tension in a thread **1401**. As the sliding portion **1420** moves in the proximal direction, it pulls the thread **1401** through eyelets **1412** in the tube portion **1410**, causing an increase in tension in the thread **1401**. Extensions **1421** in the sliding portion **1420** engage teeth **1412** disposed at the proximal end of the tube portion **1410** to secure the position of the thread **1401**.

Referring to FIG. **15**, still another embodiment of a lock member **1500** is shown. A support portion **1510** is disposed at the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300**. A pivoting portion **1520** is pivotally attached to the support portion **1510**. A thread **1501** passes from the lumen **390** of the elongate member **300** through an eyelet **1511** in the support portion **1510** and attaches to one end (indicated by "X") of the pivoting portion **1520**.

When a physician or other medical worker rotates the pivoting portion **1520** around an axis perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the elongate member **300**, the rotating member either pulls on or releases the pull on the thread **1501**. Hence, the tension in the thread **1501** is increased or reduced, depending on the direction of rotation. The support portion **1510** further includes a pivot extension **1515** around which the thread **1501** slides. The pivot extension **1515** further engages a notch **1521** in the pivoting portion **1520** to secure the position of the pivoting portion **1520**. Other embodiments include more than one pivoting portion **1520** for control of additional threads **1501**.

Referring to FIG. **16**, another embodiment of a lock member **1600** is shown. The lock member **1600** includes a support member **1610** disposed at the proximal end **330** of the elongate member **300** (not shown). One or more folding members **1620** are foldably attached to the support member **1610**.

One end of each folding member **1620** is coupled to the support member **1610** at a fixed location (indicated by "F"). The coupling comprises a folding joint, for example a hinge joint. The opposite end of the folding member **1620** is slidably coupled to the support member **1610** (indicated by "S").

As the folding member **1620** is folded, the slidably coupled end slides toward the fixed location end of the folding member **1620**. When completely folded, the folding member **1620** lies flat against the support member **1610**, and resides in a recess **1616** in the surface of the support member **1610**. A thread (not shown) can be attached at various sites along the folding member **1620** to allow a pull or a release of the thread when the folding member **1620** is folded.

Referring to FIG. **17**, another embodiment of a lock member **1700** is shown. The lock member **1700** includes a

support member 1710 disposed at the proximal end 330 of the elongate member 300. One or more flipping members 1720 are flippably attached to the support member 1710.

One end of each flipping member 1720 is coupled to the support member 1710 (indicated by "E"). The coupling permits the flipping member 1720 simultaneously to slide and rotate by 180°, i.e. flip, relative to the support member 1710.

When lying flat against the support member 1710, the flipping member 1720 resides within a recess 1716 in the surface of the support member 1710. A thread (not shown) can be attached to various sites along the flipping member 1720 to allow a pull or a release of the thread when the flipping member 1720 is folded.

Variations, modifications, and other implementations of what is described herein will occur to those of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the spirit and the scope of the invention as claimed. Accordingly, the invention is to be defined not by the preceding illustrative description but instead by the spirit and scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A medical device, the device comprising:

an elongate member;

a dilating member disposed in a distal portion of the elongate member and movable from a collapsed state to an expanded state to anchor the device within a body;

a first tension member coupled to the dilating member such that an application of tension to the first tension member causes the dilating member to move to the collapsed state thereby permitting removal of the device from the body;

a second tension member coupled to the dilating member such that an application of tension to the second tension member causes the dilating member to move to the expanded state; and

a tension control member coupled to the first tension member and the second tension member.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the tension control member is movable in at least a first direction and a second direction and is coupled to the first and second tension members such that movement of the tension control member in the first direction causes an increase in tension of the first tension member and a decrease in tension of the second tension member that causes the dilating member to move to the collapsed state, and such that movement of the tension control member in the second direction causes an increase in tension of the second tension member and a decrease in tension of the first tension member that causes the dilating member to move to the expanded state.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the tension control member is slidably coupled to the elongate member.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the tension control member is rotatably coupled to the elongate member.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the tension control member is lockable to fix the tensions in the tension members.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein the tension control member comprises a pivoting portion attached to the tension member.

7. The device of claim 5, wherein the tension control member comprises a folding member attached to the tension member.

8. The device of claim 5, wherein the tension control member comprises a flipping member attached to the tension member.

9. The device of claim 1, wherein the distal portion includes an extension on a distal end of the dilating member.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein the distal portion terminates at a distal end of the dilating member.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein the dilating member comprises a plurality of arms.

12. The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of arms protrude radially when the dilating member is in the expanded state.

13. The device of claim 1, further comprising a lock member to secure a position of the tension member when the dilating member is in the collapsed state.

14. The device of claim 13, wherein the tension member is secured by compression between the lock member and the elongate member.

15. The device of claim 1, wherein the tension member is formed from a bio-compatible thread.

16. A medical device, the device comprising:

an elongate member;

a dilating member disposed in a distal portion of the elongate member and movable from a collapsed state to an expanded state to anchor the device within a body;

a first tension member coupled to the dilating member; a second tension member coupled to the dilating member; and

a tension control member movable in at least a first direction and a second direction,

wherein the tension control member is coupled to the first and second tension members such that movement of the tension control member in the first direction causes an increase in tension of the first tension member and a decrease in tension of the second tension member that causes the dilating member to move to the collapsed state thereby permitting removal of the device from the body, and such that movement of the tension control member in the second direction causes an increase in tension of the second tension member and a decrease in tension of the first tension member that causes the dilating member to move to the expanded state, and

wherein the tension control member is lockable to fix the tensions of the tension members, and

wherein the tension control member is selected from the group consisting of a pivoting portion attached to the tension members, a folding member attached to the tension members, and a flipping member attached to the tension members.